

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 SCA-01 EB-11 CPR-02 AGR-20 COME-00

TRSE-00 FBO-01 CU-04 DRC-01 /144 W

----- 023949

R 181505Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7481

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0071

SECTION ONE OF TWO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BU, US

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH HEAD OF EIGHTH DEPARTMENT AVRAMOV

REF: A. SOFIA 008; B. STATE 001108; C. SOFIA 1756;

D. STATE 0135; E. STATE 006881; F. SOFIA 0017

1. DURING MEETING ON JANUARY 17 WITH AMBASSADOR AVRAMOV FOLLOWING SUBJECTS WERE DISCUSSED. HOWEVER, CORE OF CONVERSATION WAS CENTERED ON PROPOSED POPOV AND KISSINGER VISITS. BULGARS CLEARLY LOOK UPON VISITS AS IMPORTANT TO CONTINUING IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS.

2. INVITATION TO SECRETARY:

A. ALTHOUGH AVROMOV APPRECIATES THAT THE SECRETARY IS VERY BUSY AND HEAVILY COMMITTED, HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO COME TO BULGARIA TO SIGN THE CONSULAR CONVENTION. OBSERVED, HOWEVER, IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, AGREEMENT COULD BE SIGNED AND PERHAPS U.S. TRADITION OF NEGOTIATING IN ONE COUNTRY AND SIGNING IN OTHER MIGHT BE OBSERVED. HE THEN REFERRED TO THE HOUSTON-VELCHEV CONVERSATION (REFTEL B.) AND MY OWN  
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USE OF THE WORD "ORAL" INVITATION AND ASKED IF AN

INVITATION TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE (ROGERS) HAS BEEN EXTENDED AND ACCEPTED DOES IT NOT REMAIN VALID UNTIL SOME ADDITIONAL ACTION IS TAKEN REGARDLESS OF WHO IS SECRETARY. ADDED THAT ALL MLADENOV INTENDED TO DO WHEN HE SPOKE TO SECRETARY KISSINGER WAS TO RECONFIRM AN INVITATION ALREADY EXTENDED. AVRAMOV THEN ASKED IF THE MINISTER SHOULD EXTEND ANOTHER INVITATION? I SAID, I WAS CERTAIN THAT WAS NOT NECESSARY, AND AGAIN STRESSED UNCERTAINTY OF THE SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE.

B. BULGARS WILL BE DISAPPOINTED IF SECRETARY CANNOT VISIT BULGARIA FOR SIGNING OF CONSULAR AGREEMENT, BUT COULD BE PACIFIED, I BELIEVE, IF THE SECRETARY SENT MLADENOV A LETTER ACKNOWLEDGING THE STANDING INVITATION AND EXPRESSING GRATITUDE FOR IT, BUT DUE TO HIS HEAVY SCHEDULE, SEES NO POSSIBILITY OF COMING THIS YEAR, ETC. LETTER COULD BE HANDED OVER TO MLADENOV BY THE NEW AMBASSADOR. (DIPLOMATIC CORPS NOW HAS WIND OF INVITATION AND IS VERY CURIOUS AS TO WHAT WILL HAPPEN.)

3. POPOV VISIT:

A. SO FAR AS THE POPOV VISIT IS CONCERNED, THE THRUST OF AVRAMOV'S REMARKS WERE THAT POPOV WAS TO VISIT THE U.S. AS A PART OF IMPROVING RELATIONS AND THAT WE SHOULD DEVELOP A SUITABLE PROGRAM FOR HIS VISIT. AVRAMOV SEEMS TO UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEM WITH MFN CREDITS, ETC., BUT BELIEVES THERE ARE OTHER USEFUL AGREEMENTS WHICH COULD BE CONCLUDED FOR POPOV'S SIGNATURE. WHEN ASKED FOR SPECIFICS, HE SUGGESTED AN AGRICULTURAL AGREEMENT (WE HAVE HEARD THE BULGARS ARE WORKING ON SUCH A DRAFT BUT AVRAMOV WOULD NOT BE DRAWN OUT FURTHER ON SUBJECT). HE ALSO MENTIONED A SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL AGREEMENT, AND I, OF COURSE, SAID WE WOULD ALSO NEED A CULTURAL AGREEMENT. AVRAMOV AGREED AND ADDED THEY WOULD NEED TO BE SEPARATE AGREEMENTS BECAUSE OF STRUCTURES OF GOB. AVRAMOV GAVE NO INDICATION OF THE TIMING POPOV MIGHT HAVE IN MIND AND IMPLIED POPOV WOULD BE WILLING TO SIGN THE CONSULAR CONVENTION IF OTHER AGREEMENTS INVOLVED AS WELL.

B. ALTHOUGH AVRAMOV DID NOT PUSH FOR POPOV VISIT, HE MADE CLEAR THAT GOB CONSIDERS VISIT IMPORTANT TO FURTHER CONFIDENTIAL

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IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS AND THAT ACTION RESTS WITH USG.

C. BELIEVE WE SHOULD OUTLINE A PROGRAM FOR POPOV INCLUDING OFFICIALS HE COULD CALL ON AND POSSIBLE AGREEMENTS WHICH, IF AGREED TO, COULD BE SIGNED. IT MAY TAKE SEVERAL MONTHS TO WORK OUT ACTUAL PROGRAM, BUT OUT INTENT WULD BE PLAIN. THIS, TOO, COULD BE PRE-SENTED BY NEW AMBASSADOR.

4. DIVIDED FAMILIES: AVRAMOV IS AWARE OF PROBLEM AND  
AGREED WE SHOULD WORK ON RESOLVING IT DURING 1974.

5. EMBASSY SITES: THE LOCATION OF THE BULGARIAN EMBASSY  
IN WASHINGTON IS OF CONTINUING CONCERN TO THE MFA,  
AVRAMOV SAID, BUT PROPERTY RESPONSIBILITY RESTS WITH  
MFA SECRETARIAT AND NOT WITH HIM. HE PROMISED TO PASS

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